

# Is the Trinity Broadcasting Network a Force for Good or Concern in the Christian Community?

Sixbert SANGWA • June 30, 2024

The Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) is one of the largest and most influential Christian television networks in the world. It was founded in 1973 by Paul Crouch, an Assemblies of God minister, and his wife Jan. The network began as a small local TV station in the Los Angeles area, but has since grown into a global media empire, with over 30 different networks broadcasting in multiple languages to every inhabited continent.

The stated mission of TBN is "to use every available means to reach as many individuals and families as possible with the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ." However, the network has faced extensive criticism over the years for its theological content and priorities.

One of the primary criticisms of TBN is its embrace of the "prosperity gospel" or "Word of Faith" movement. Many of the network's most prominent teachers, such as Joel Osteen, Kenneth Copeland, Benny Hinn, Joyce Meyer, Creflo Dollar, and T.D. Jakes, are known for promoting the idea that financial blessing and physical healing are always God's will for believers, and that they can be obtained through certain "seed faith" offerings and prayer rituals. This theology, which promises material prosperity in exchange for monetary "seeds" sown to ministries, has been widely rejected by mainstream Christian leaders as unbiblical and spiritually harmful.

The Bible teaches that true wealth and success come not from material possessions, but from a relationship with God and a commitment to living a righteous life. In contrast, the prosperity gospel preached by TBN seems to place an undue emphasis on financial prosperity as a sign of God's favor. This is in direct contradiction with numerous biblical passages that warn against the love of money and the pursuit of worldly wealth ([1 Timothy 6:10](#), [Proverbs 23:4-5](#), [Matthew 6:19-21](#)).

In addition to the prosperity gospel teaching, TBN has also been accused of lacking theological discernment and allowing a wide variety of teachers onto its platform, including some who openly deny core Christian doctrines. For example, T.D. Jakes, a frequent TBN guest, has been criticized for holding modalistic views of the Trinity that effectively deny the distinct personhood of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Ironically, some TBN ministers have also been accused of denying the doctrine of the Trinity, which is a fundamental Christian belief.

Furthermore, TBN has faced allegations of being affiliated with secret societies, such as the Freemasons. While these accusations have not been conclusively proven, they have contributed to the network's reputation for promoting unorthodox and potentially heretical teachings. The Bible teaches the importance of humility, service, and the unity of the body of Christ ([Philippians 2:3-4](#), [1 Corinthians 12:12-27](#)). The allegations of TBN's association with secret societies, which are often seen as elitist and exclusive, seem to go against these fundamental Christian principles.

The financial practices of TBN have also come under scrutiny. The network receives millions of dollars in viewer donations each year, which supporters argue goes towards the network's evangelistic mission. However, critics have accused TBN of using manipulative fundraising tactics and funneling donations into the personal wealth of the Crouch family and other network leaders.

In light of these concerns, Christian leaders and discerning believers have urged caution when engaging with TBN's programming. While the network may provide some edifying content, viewers are advised to exercise extreme discernment, compare everything taught to the standard of Scripture, and be wary of the network's promotion of unbiblical teachings and practices. Ultimately, TBN remains one of the most prominent and controversial Christian media entities in the world today, with a complex and often troubling history. While the allegations of TBN's affiliation with secret societies remain unproven, the network's adherence to the prosperity gospel and its use of symbols and imagery that some perceive as being associated with these organizations have raised significant concerns within the Christian community. As with any organization claiming to represent the teachings of the Bible, it is crucial to carefully examine its beliefs and practices in light of the scriptures to ensure they are in alignment with the core principles of the Christian faith.

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